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Soc. for Spreading Information about
St. Michael's

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The Azores

3790-35
S^T. MICHAEL'S AS A HEALTH RESORT

S^T. MICHAEL'S AS A STATION FOR TOURISTS

S^T. MICHAEL'S AS A COAL STATION

PUBLISHED BY THE
SOCIETY · FOR · SPREADING · INFORMATION · ABOUT · ST·MICHAEL'S
PONTA DELGADA — ST·MICHAEL'S
AZORES

Society for
Spreading Information about St. Mich
August 19, 1903.

If you conclude Europe is too far away and you still wish to go abroad for your health, or pleasure, sake why not take into consideration

St. Michael's as being the place for all invalids and pleasure seekers?

St. Michael's with its four hundred and fifty square miles of Wood-land and Meadow?

St. Michael's with its mild climate, pure Sea Air, and plenty of it?

St. Michael's with its Boating, Sailing, Fishing, and Bathing?

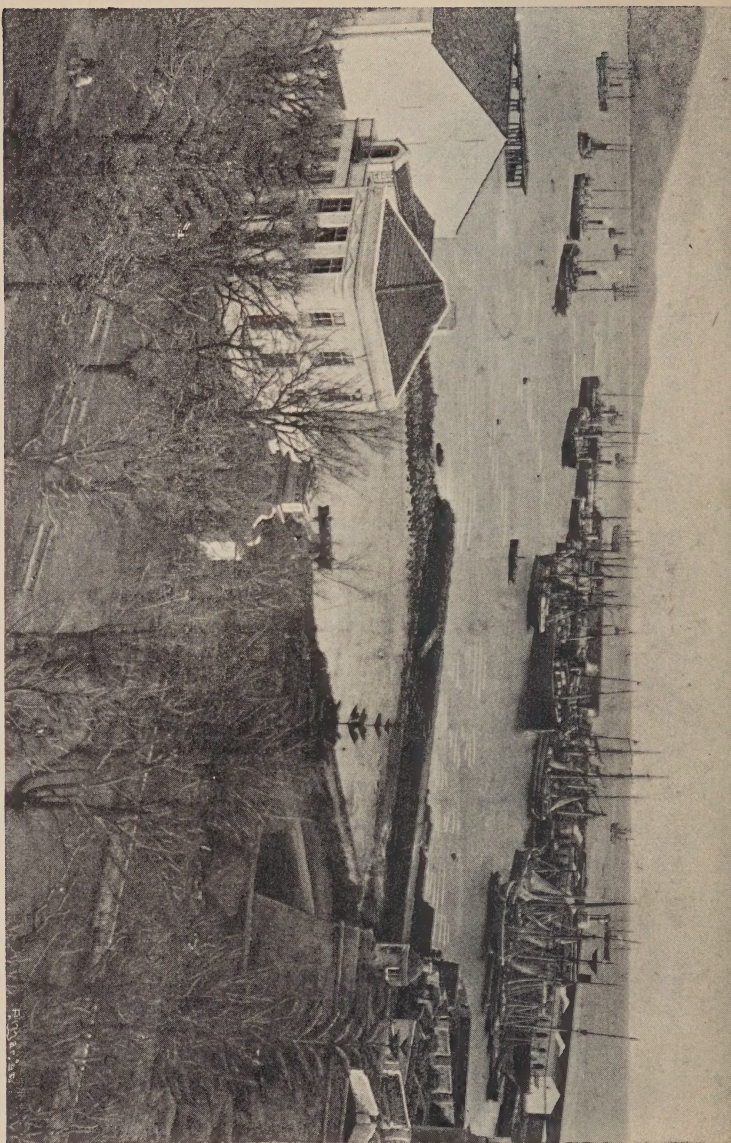
St. Michael's Walks, Drives and Magnificent points of Scenery?

St. Michael's with its Spring and Mineral waters?

St. Michael's with its Thermal Bathing-Establishment to cure several diseases?

St. Michael's un unlimited Fruit Supply?

St. Michael's at six days from New-York?



HARBOUR OF PONTA DELGADA.

THE AZORES

3790-35

St. Michael's as a Heath Resort

St. Michael's as a Station for tourists

St. Michael's as a Coal Station

St Michael's, whose lie is $37^{\circ} 45' 10''$ latitude north and $25^{\circ} 41' 30''$ longitude west of Greenwich, is the largest and richest of a group of nine islands which make up the Azorean archipelago.

Its climate is very temperat, for it does not exceed 27° C. nor go below 10° C.

It possesses many natural beauties which rival the charming landscapes of Scotland and Switzerland. Among them stand out unsurpassed the Lake of the Seven Cities and the Valley of Furnas, the latter a region abounding in thermal springs, with a large public bathing establishment, maintained at the expense of the Junta Geral (County Council) and where baths may be had *gratis*.

The journey from Ponta Delgada is made in fine carriages along magnificent roads either by the north or south side of the island according to the choice of the traveller. In Summer time this trip can be made by sea.

The population of the island is about 125.000 inh., and that of its capital, Ponta Delgada 20.000.

The inhabitants are endowed with a kindly disposition, being polite and affable in the extreme to the foreigners that arrive here.

Besides a regiment of infantry and the police force, there is a battery of artillery to fire the salutes on national festivals and answer those of foreign men-of-war that call at the harbour of Ponta Delgada.

Crimes here are very rare, many a year passing without any capital offence having to be judged.

The City of Ponta Delgada possesses private gardens which have no equal in Europe. They are always open to strangers.

It is lighted by gas since 1884 and illumination by electricity is going to be established for private persons.

The whole island has drinking water in abundance and of excellent quality.

Navigation here finds excellent anchorage quite near to land when the weather is fine and an artificial harbour with first rate buoys and moorings whenever they wish to enter on account of the weather not permitting them to effect their operations outside it. There is in the same harbour space and depth enough to shelter steamers like those of the great Dominion Line. The *Commonwealth* and *New England* have already entered there, were moored and effected their operations without the slightest difficulty. It possesses a body of 5 pilots and 1 port captain.

Inside the break-water are great coaling depots whence steamers are supplied either day or night at the rate of 80 to 100 tons per hour according to the greater or lesser facility to fill the bunkers.

For night service the coal supplying firms possess



PONTA DELGADA. — A PORT OF THE CITY.

lamps of intense light, fed with gasoline and which rival in brilliancy any electric arc lamp.

In the artificial harbour there is a quay for such steamers as want to unlade, with powerful steam-worked cranes. On the same quay there are taps of drinking water whence vessels are supplied.

Articles of food abound in St. Michael's and can be had for prices comparatively low. Not very long ago the Danish transatlantic liner *Oscar II* with 1,124 persons on board had to put into the harbour of Ponta Delgada in a damaged condition. It remained a fortnight in the harbour along with the cruisers *Holland*, *Albany* and *Kreisser*, besides other merchant steamers, without occasioning any scarcity in the articles of food, nor causing their ordinary market price to rise.

Every week are seen passing quite near to the harbour the transatlantic steamers of different companies, such as the Norddeutscher Lloyd, Hamburg Amerika, Anchor Line, Cyprian Fabre, Navigazione Generale, La Velloce and Dominion Line, which ply between New York and Boston and the Mediterranean ports. There is also the English Royal Mail that runs from England to the West Indies.

The only one of these companies that calls at the harbour of Ponta Delgada is the Dominion Line to leave or take passengers.

All of these mail boats carry a great number of passenger tourists who are so struck by our enchanting views that some of them have come here on purpose through knowledge merely gained by passing before the island, so pleasing was the effect produced on them by our landscapes as seen from the sea while the vessel steamed along.



LAKE OF SETE CIDADES.

But what really makes it impossible for tourists to come here in any great number is the want of good hotels because the ones Ponta Delgada possesses are not fit to receive visitors accustomed to all modern comforts, and besides that they are only very few.

In these islands those terrible and deadly epidemics, the bubonic plague, yellow fever, cholera-morbus, are utterly unknown. Neither does hydrophobia exist here nor are there any hurtful animals.

A disinfecting establishment has been lately built near the city and raised to the rank of a 1st class Health Station, that is, equal to those of Lisbon, Porto and Madeira. It is therefore the only harbour of the Azores in which passengers may disembark freely even when proceeding from infected countries, only their clothing used on board having to go to be disinfected. Baggage with clean clothing need not undergo the operation.

This island, once possessing good hotels like Madeira, could become a fine resort for tourists. It is even superior to Madeira on account of the magnificent thermal springs in Furnas valley, which have restored health to many an invalid. We proceed to transcribe what Dr. Herman Canfield says in his book *The Azores as a resort of health*.

.....

«Briefly, these waters are efficacious:

First, in rheumatism. Chronic cases and other than those of a rheumatoid arthritic type, always recover, and what is most remarkable, is the permanency of cases being reported in which there has been no relapse up to date, a period of ten years of thereabouts. If the waters can be persisted in



FURNAS. — A PORT OF THE LAKE PART.

ordinary chronic rheumatism seems to be entirely cure. Every case improves.

Second, most cases of paralysis are benefited, especially where there is a rheumatic diathesis present.

Third, syphilitic lesions of all kinds.

Fourth, locomotor ataxis in some cases is greatly benefited, but as a rule the result is disappointing.

Fifth, such as suffer from dyspepsia and intestinal troubles make their annual pilgrimage to the springs and there find sure relief.

Sixth, skin diseases are for the most part cured, almost always benefited, especially eczema.

Seventh, to my mind this is a perfect heaven for a neurasthenic. My own experience was a very happy one. After a long period of nervous suffering following a severe attack of la grippe, I reached the springs January 1st, a complete wreck. In the first thirty days I gained thirty-four pounds, and all the neurasthenic symptoms disappeared in proportion. On January 1st, I could not walk a quarter of a mile. January 30th I walked twelve miles without discomfort.»

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The company that would undertake the construction of hotels in St. Michael's, one at least being in the city, another at Furnas and a smaller one in the valley of the Seven Cities on the border of the lake, would obtain remunerative profit and it would be easy to get, we don't exactly say a subsidy in money but at least an excellent site for its construction.

The inhabitant of St. Michael's, from the medium he lives in, naturally shrinks from undertakings



FURNAS. — ENTRANCE TO A GARDEN.

of this order, and yet the company that would be formed to explore this branch of commerce would certainly not have to suffer from the scarcity of visitors; because if our natural beauties became known abroad and the companies of the transatlantic liners which pass in front of our harbour included in their route a stoppage at this port (as some lines do already for Madeira), certainly among the thousands of passengers that annually leave the United States for the Mediterranean ports, some of them would stop at St. Michel's at least till the arrival of the following steamer to admire the beautiful scenery and the picturesque points of view this mountainous island offers its visitors.

Besides this the company could explore the Furnas valley as a thermal watering place.

The very great variety of thermal waters which are being prescribed for diverse ailments with wonderful cures as the result, this would of itself guarantee for the company, especially in the summer months an extraordinary concourse of foreigners.

The Furnas valley with its exuberant vegetation and splendid parks completely surrounded by mountains of different altitudes, rivalling each other in diverse panoramas, its lovely lake bordered by a magnificent road which is the favourite walk of the habitués of that valley, and its Casino, make it an ideal Spot for the tourist, who, fleeing from the noisy world goes to seek for repose in that picturesque valley and enjoy the charming scenery with which Nature has favoured it.

It is not our official duty to be crying up beauties we don't possess, it is in the quality of propagandists and therefore in the desire to attract foreigners here



FURNAS. — SPRINGS OF BOILING WATER.

that we point them out in all their truthfulness and simplicity.

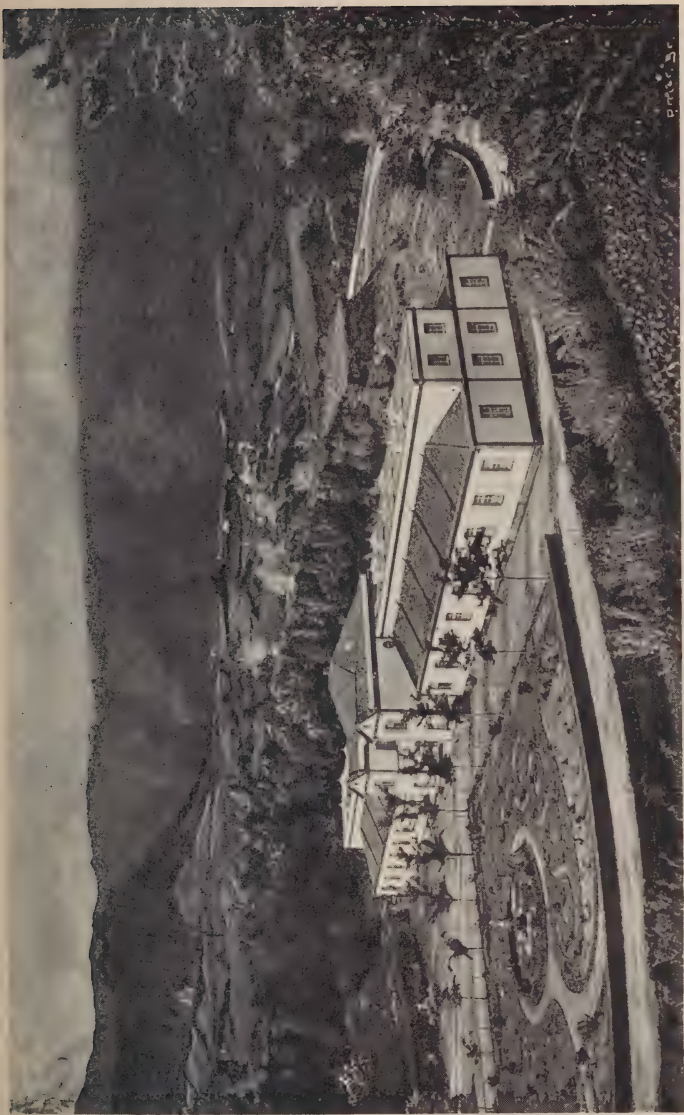
If this pamphlet then which is going to visit other climes, fall into the hands of some enterprising person who wishes to form a company for the establishment of hotels in St. Michael's, he may reckon with the gratuitous cooperation of this Society for all the explanations and concessions he may desire, in the assurance that any representative of his he may send to this island, will see with his own eyes that what we say about our beautiful island is not overstated and that the undertaking in question will surely be a lucrative one.

Extracts from works relating to St. Michael's

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«A sea voyage of (*) ten days over a southerly course, where the weather is usually warm and the sea smooth, a country full of novelty and interest both as regards its people, their customs, mode of living, etc., its geological history, its wonders of forest, fruit and vegetable growth, its moist, warm climate, with an average winter temperature of 62° F., and a summer temperature of 72° F., its soft ocean breezes, lulling to rest the weary brain and soothing worn out nerves, and yet by the force of their extreme purity putting life, strength and energy into every part of the body; its sunshine and diurnal equability, so grateful to the rheumatic and essential to all sufferers from kindny troubles, certainly make it worthy of our study and consider-

(*) 1892.



FURNAS. — THE THERMAL BATHING ESTABLISHMENT.

ation and yet these are only a few of the numerous advantages this islands offers to the invalid and especially the invalid of moderate means. The time is not far distante when a more scientific knowledge of this island will be available to the profession, when the means of communication will be improved, and the accommodations there more Americanized: St. Michael's then take a high rank among the health resorts of the world.»

(*The Azores a Health Resort*, by Herman Canfield, A. M., M. D.)

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«The island of St. Michael's, one of the Azores is extremely pretty, and possesses an abundance of hills and mountains covered with fresh verdure, and thrown about with graceful irregularity. At the first glance you see that it is of volcanic origin; the shape of the mountain, the dark sea shore, often entirely of black lava, afford sufficient evidence of this. But no smoking craters is to be found here any longer, — the volcanos have long since raged themselves out, — and the lava has become so hard that it is almost converted into stone, and is every where covered so richly with vegetable soil, that the most luxuriant corn fields wave and fragrant orange groves blossom on its surface.»

(*A Lady Second Voyage round the World* — by Ida Peeifeer, vol. II)

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«In a direct line Furnas village is only eighteen miles from the city, but the road first crosses the island to the north side, and keeps not far from the coast for some distance, until it is necessary to

branche off southwards up the mountain to get over the side of the huge crater, in which the beautiful village of Furnas is situated; thus making the distance nearly thirty miles. The time it took us to reach our destination was six hours; of this time only about half-an-hour was taken up to give the mules a rest previous to the last portion of the journey, which was mostly up-ill.



The road for nearly the whole distance was a wellengineered, properly constructed first-class road made by the Government. In few countries in which I have travelled have I been driven along better roads; lava and volcanic ashes first-rate metalling firm and hard with little dust.

Four miles after driving through the city, we went through the long straggling suburbs; on both sides were high strong lava walls, on the other side of there walls there were beautiful orange groves.

Several trees have been introduced by the Azoreans. Two from Japan, *Undulatum tabera* and *Pittosporum undulatum*; the native plants, *Myrica faya*, *Laurus Canariensis* and *Persea indica*; another a cypress, an arbor vitæ a large kind of box, and other trees, are trained in rows to form a protection against the wind; often a hedge of the common reed, *Arundo donax* which grows to the height of twelve to fifteen feet serves the same purpose.

As we ascended the country on the south side presented many fine varied views, and soon after we had passed the «saddle» of the hill, the ocean beyond the northern coast became visible, and gradually the country which opened out, displaying a long line of bold headlands, and many exquisite wooded landscapes, was well cultivated and watered on all sides: there were large plantations of pines *Pinus maritimus*, and other trees, among them *Cryptomeria Japonica*, *Eucalyptus*, *Populus nigra*, *angulata* and *Acacia melanoxylon*, useful for their wood to make the boxes in which oranges, lemons and pine-apples, and other fruit are packed for exportation. We passed by several smaller mountains with perfectly formed extinct craters, the sides and ravines of these being covered with trees and bushes.

Magnificent ferns, the tree heath *Erica Azorica* peculiar to St. Michael's, grows luxuriantly, the latter often to the height of 12 to 14 feet, the stem being used by the peasantry for firewood; the graceful laurel-looking *Myrica faya* and the spreading *Juniperus oxycedrus* are plentiful, and grow sometimes even to the summits of the mountains: the beds of the torrents are often entirely covered with the

splendid frond of *Woodwardia radicans*, 6 to 8 feet in length. Seldom have I been so agreeable astonished as when, after a long walk up the mountain-side, along a comparatively uninteresting part of the road, we came unexpectedly, at the end of a deep cutting to a spot where we caught the first glimpse of the beautiful valley of Furnas; we were really standing on the ridge bounding and old crater. (*)



Although we were all very tired and hungry, this enchanting scene so suddenly opening out before us seemed to reinvigorate us with new life.

For some moments we remained standing, leaning on the low road wall, looking before us silent admiration and wonder.»

(*A Summer Trip to the island of St. Michael's — Azores*
— by Rupert Swindells).

(*) The author of this book made his trip by the north road.

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«Following the capital carriage road which traverses this plateau, we presently reach a part where it abruptly descends, known as the Pedras do Gallego, and here a scene, likely to impress the dullest imagination, breaks upon our delighted view, for suddenly, hundreds of feet below, lies the «Cintra Michaelense», that Azorean «Vale of Tempe», the boast and pride of every islander — the Valley of the Furnas. Nestling amidst green trees and caroling brooks, stand the white pigmy-looking village habitations of this cherished Baia. Right across, on the opposite broken edge of the crater — for this beautiful valley, like Rome, lies in the very bosom of a once fierce volcano — can be discerned the rising smoke of the ever-boiling geysers, their sulphurous and noxious fumes causing all vegetation in their vicinity to perish.

A broken but picturesque and cultivated country extends for some two miles W. S. W. to E. N. E., until it is lost, on the right, in another great depression now occupied by the lovely lake of the Furnas; and along the side on which we stand is seen what remains of the north-east portion of the trunk of the once vast crater, forming, in places, a vertical and over hanging semi-circle several hundred feet high. On our left winds the splendidly engineered road leading down into the valley, which — still lingering on this «Vision of Paradise» — we leisurely descend.

No wonder then, that during the hot summer months a great influx of visitors takes place, not only for the gain of several degrees in temperature,

but for the sake of the celebrated baths which have made this valley so justly famous.»

(*The Azores.* — Walter Frederick Walker.)

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«Our first impression of Ponta Delgada were that



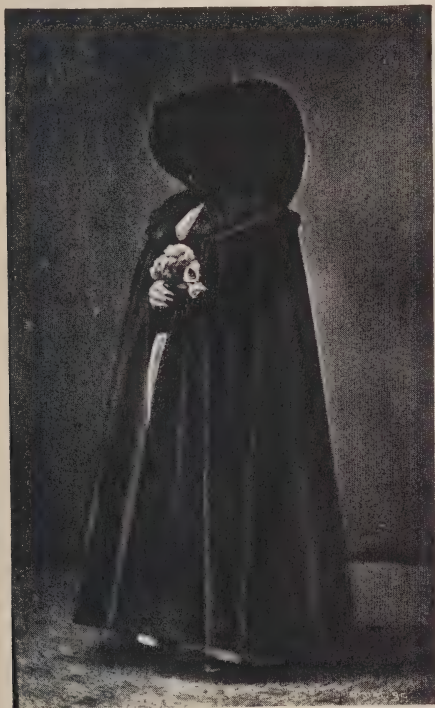
the city appeared to bear a strong general resemblance to Venice. The city ranks third in extent and importance among those of the Portuguese dominions; the population being about thirty thousand, and the trade considerable. The main streets are wide, the public buildings are somewhat numerous;

and many of the churches and private houses are well and substantially built, and display a considerable amount of architectural skill and taste. The hotel, to which I was carried on landing, commands views over extensive orange-groves, the city and the harbour, and wears a cheerful and comfortable aspect. It is kept by a mother looking Scotch woman and her daughter and son (*) all of whom did their best to make us feel at home. Close by is the charming Borges Garden, where I reposed upon the grass while the rest of our party made a little tour of exploration. The vegetation appeared to combine the products of the temperate and of the tropic zones. The hedges of camelias, thirty and forty feet high, were covered with red and white doubles blooms, so full, and thick, and firm, that they resembled rosetts on a baby's cap rather than flowers; while the ground was completely covered with the pure white and rosy red petal which had fallen from above.

In the Borges Garden are several ponds, full of gold-fish, which, at our approach, came crowding to the side, to be fed by the hands of their owner. These beautiful members of the finny tribe are the natural denizens of most the Azoreans pools and rivers. At «Sete Cidades» there are two large lakes, full of gold-fish. The Jacome Garden, which we next visited, was if possible even more delightful than the first. I do not know which was to be more admired—the wild luxuriante of nature, or the artie tastefulness which, had brought so many beautiful trees, shrubs, plants, and ferns, into such close, but judi-

(*) Brown's Hotel.

cious juxtaposition. As I was carried in a kind of hastily improvised palanquim along the narrow paths. I could fancy myself at one time in Chili, among the giant cacti and aloes; at another in Ja-



maica; with its tree-ferns and foliage and flowerless frondage; at another in Venezuela, with its wonderful tropical forests and mountain scenery; and at yet another in Trinidad, with its virgin forests, and thick walls of verdure and bright bossoms. The hydrangeas, geraniums and oleanders, were of

enormous growth, and the *camellia japonica* assumed the proportions of a forestree.

«It would appear that the most of the places which we have recently visited stand much in the same relation to the United States as health-resorts as the Riviera, Algiers, Egypt and Madeira, do to England. The Azores, the Bahamas, the Bermudas and even Venezuela, are annually sought in winter by many of the inhabitants of the more northern parts of America, just as the sunny shores of the Mediterranean are sought by the British invalids.

«At last we reached our destination — I cannot say how much to my joy: for although our road to day had led us through enchanting scenery, as fair as could be met with in well-nigh any part of Europe — past groves of shady trees and luxuriant masses of ferns and flowers; and although the temperature throughout had been delightful, neither too hot nor too cold.

«The Furnas seems to be the very center of nature's boiling-house; springs of all sorts of mysterious mixtures of varying temperatures bubbling and spurting forth from the earth, some times with considerable force, in all parts of the lovely valley. Close by the bath-house, a spacious and well-appointed establishment, situated in a picturesque glen, numerous hot springs and great mud-geysers bubble and fume; the water being conducted into the clean marble baths by means of pipes. Several springs are made use of: but the two most in favour contain a large proportion of iron and of sulphur respectively. Their medicinal qualities are highly esteemed, not only by the people of the Azores, but by visitors from Portugal and even from remote parts of Europe

and from America. The waters have been found to consist of hot alkalines and hot and cold carbonated chalybeates, and are supposed to be efficacious in



cases of paralytic affection, skin-diseases, and rheumatism.»

(In the Trades, The Tropics & The Roaring Forties —
by Lady Brassey).

.....

«San Miguel, on the contrary, through force of circumstances, has been in a measure obliged to learn of its superiors — though much against its will

doubtless—and is consequently more Anglicezed and continental. Being nearer to the mainland of Europe, and more visited by foreigners it has become more impregnated with continental ideas and habits. The influence of a century of constant intercourse with England has also served to mould its life.

«Ponta Delgada, the capital, is the third city in size and importance in the Portuguese dominion, only Lisbon and Porto ranking higher. It possesses many of the attributes of refinement and civilisation. Its streets generally are wide, well paved; or macadamized; its private buildings are attractive, and its cathedrals and other public edifices are imposing commodious structures. It has between twenty-five and thirty thousand inhabitants enjoys an extensive trade with England, United States and Germany, and it is more frequented by tourists than any other island of the group.

«A panoramic scene of the most surprising and delightful character is unrolled. «No famed Swiss landscape is fairer,» exclaimed an enthusiastic traveller as he looked down upon the valley from the road where it winds along the brow of the overhanging mountains.

«A more minute examination serves to deepen one's delight. At your feet nestles the green valley with its little village of cloustering whith houses, seeming far away like some Swiss hamlet. To the left the clouds of smoke and steam ascended from boiling springs. Steep cliffs, madder-tinted rocks, and towering mountains encircle the whole valley. Here and there streams of water trickle down the hill side, and a narrow pass between two mountains ridges gives a glimpse of a broad lake beyond.

«Even the first sight of these enchantings wilds
wines your admiration, and after you descend in to
the valley and have lived for days and weeks amid the
glowing largesse of flowers and the rippling cantata



of water, you are quite ready to sing with the Furnas peasant:—

«And the beauties that surround thee,
In the world unrivalled stand».

«The medicinal qualities of the waters of the Furnas are very highly esteemed by the Portuguese,

and not only do the people from the adjoining islands of this group and from Portugal come here, but you meet invalids from remoter parts of Europe and from America, who are trying the efficacy of the waters which are claimed to be beneficial in cases of rheumatic complaint, paralytic affection and skin diseases. Large quantities of the mineral waters are annually bottled—*Lombada-water*, and *Machado-water*—and sent to Lisbon and other parts of Europe, and also some extent to the United States. The springs diffused abroad, has called hither savantes from England and France at various times, and the waters have been frequently analyzed. They are found to consist of hot alkalins, and hot and cold carbonate chalybeates.»

(*Among the Azores*—by Lyman H. Weeks).

Society for Spreading information about St. Michael's

With the above title and under the high patronage of H. S. H. Prince Albert of Monaco, there has been established at Ponta Delgada, the capital of St. Michael's, an association whose aim is to spread abroad as much information as possible concerning this magnificent part of the Azorean group. To attract the attention of the world of science and of travellers to this favoured spot of creation making it known to them in every point of view, is the official mission of this society, founded under the auspices of local corporations.

The Society will with the greatest pleasure furnish whatever information may be sought for from abroad. All their publications are sent *gratis* and free post.

Correspondence addressed tho the
Society for Spreading information about
St. Michael's

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